

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and members of the House Health Committee thank you for the opportunity to provide a written only proponent testimony on House Bill 248.

My name is Jessica Thompson. I am a stay at home and homeschooling mom. I support House Bill 248 simply because I believe in our freedoms here in Ohio. I don't believe anyone should be forced to get a vaccine that does not want it. Any reason should be a valid reason as to not get vaccinated, whether it is religious, medical, or just a personal concern.

My husband works and supports our family. We are fearful his company will require the vaccination and that he will be ostracized if he does not, or worse that he will lose his job.

While we homeschool, I worry about what a forced vaccination can mean for my children. Can their doctors turn them away for not getting the Covid vaccine? Therefore, hindering their health and well being by not being able to get prompt medical care? My 9 month old son has allergies and I worry how this vaccine may affect him. While now it's only available for kids 12 and older, what happens when it does become available for younger children? Will they not be able to join organizations or teams, therefore, hurting their socialization skills by not getting the vaccine? Why should children be forced to get a vaccine against an illness that seems to have little to no affect on them or even spread from them?

I have my own health issues that make me leery to receive this vaccine. While I'm sure the doctors might say it's "safe" for me to receive it, there's really no way to know unless I get it. I'm not willing to take that chance. I have 5 children that need me.

I realize by not getting the vaccine we are taking a chance to get Covid. However, that is ultimately a chance we are willing to take and it should be our choice. Especially since people are still getting Covid that have been Vaccinated!

As a pro-lifer I always hear "my body my choice" as the major argument for abortion. I strongly believe this sentiment should go towards vaccinations. This is truly my body (and it's not affecting an unborn baby's body) and I should be able to decide what to do with it.

My family and I want to avoid discrimination that may come from not receiving the Covid vaccine, whether that's going to the store, participating in worship, or being in the workforce. We shouldn't have to prove to anyone that we have received the vaccine other than medical professions who may need to know in order to give us proper care, but not to deny us care.

Thank for taking the time to listen to my testimony for the need of House Bill 248.

Sincerely,
Jessica Thompson